

## A New Species of *Xenorhipis* from Mexico with a Key to the Males (Buprestidae)

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Interest in the distribution of the species of *Xenorhipis* was stimulated by the collection of *X. alvarengai* Cobos in Brazil (Cobos, 1964). Until that discovery no *Xenorhipis* was known from south of Texas and the Bimini Islands. A new species has been taken in the states of Sonora and Oaxaca, Mexico and is described below. This helps to fill the formerly large gap in the distribution of this genus. In order to facilitate the identification of the species of *Xenorhipis* a key to the males is included. The females of *X. alvarengai* Cobos and *X. mexicana* Nelson are unknown.

### *Xenorhipis mexicana* Nelson, NEW SPECIES (Fig. 1)

Elongate, narrow; above black with iridescent blue-green on head except at middle, on basal and lateral pronotal margins, and on triangular area at base of elytra; elytra with aeneous tint on apical two thirds and with obscure purplish reflections at apex; below black with iridescent blue-green or purplish reflections at sides of meso- and metasterna, on abdomen and femora; mouthparts, antennae, and tarsi testaceous; setae inconspicuous above, slightly more evident below.

**MALE**—Head convex with median sulcus on vertex ending below in foveola on front between upper part of eyes; surface reticulate on front, granulose on vertex; antennae flabellate, rami beginning with second joint.

Pronotum transversely quadrate, sides parallel, slightly rounded in front, lateral margins inferior in front; anterior margin sinuate with median lobe broadly rounded; basal margin slightly sinuate; disk slightly flattened at middle, short groove at apex, base with midline fovea and depressions laterally; surface reticulate basally, punctate-granulose anteriorly. Scutellum transversely oval, disk depressed, chagreened.

Elytra at base as wide as pronotum, lateral margins sinuate; each elytron constricted to narrowest at middle leaving midline gap, apices rounded; sutural and lateral margins serrulate; disk flattened, slightly depressed at base; surface granulose, more coarsely apically.

Beneath densely punctured toward middle of sterna, reticulate laterally and on abdomen, background chagreened; prosternum not lobed; large sensory pit on side of metasternum clothed with long golden setae; last visible abdominal sternite semicircularly emarginate with apical angles serrate.

Length 5.3 mm; width 1.5 mm.

**FEMALE**—Unknown.

Type material: *Holotype*, male (California Academy of Sciences, Entomology, San Francisco) and two paratypes from Mexico, Oaxaca, 3 miles west of Tehuan-

tepec, 2 August 1965, on *Acacia pennatula* (S. & C.) limbs, G. H. Nelson; 2 males, same place, 9 July 1965, G. H. Nelson; 1 male, same place, 19 July 1965, G. H. Nelson; 1 male, Mexico, Sonora, 15 miles east of Navajoa, 20 July 1965, on *Acacia* sp., D. S. Verity; 1 male, Mexico, Sonora, 9 miles north of Hermosillo, 30 July 1966, on *Olneya tesota* Gray, D. S. Verity. Paratypes in the collections of D. S. Verity and the writer.

*Variations.*—The iridescent areas are reduced in some and in one are almost absent while in one from Sonora the iridescent areas are more evident. In one there is a trace and in two a more evident testaceous area at the narrowest part of the elytra. The sides of the pronotum are slightly sinuate in one and a bit rounded in others. The paratypes vary from 4.2 to 5.9 mm in length and from 1.2 to 1.7 mm in width.

*Comparisons.*—This species is most similar to *X. alvarengai* Cobos but differs in the general body color being blackish instead of blue, and in the shape of the elytra. It differs from the other species as indicated in the following key.

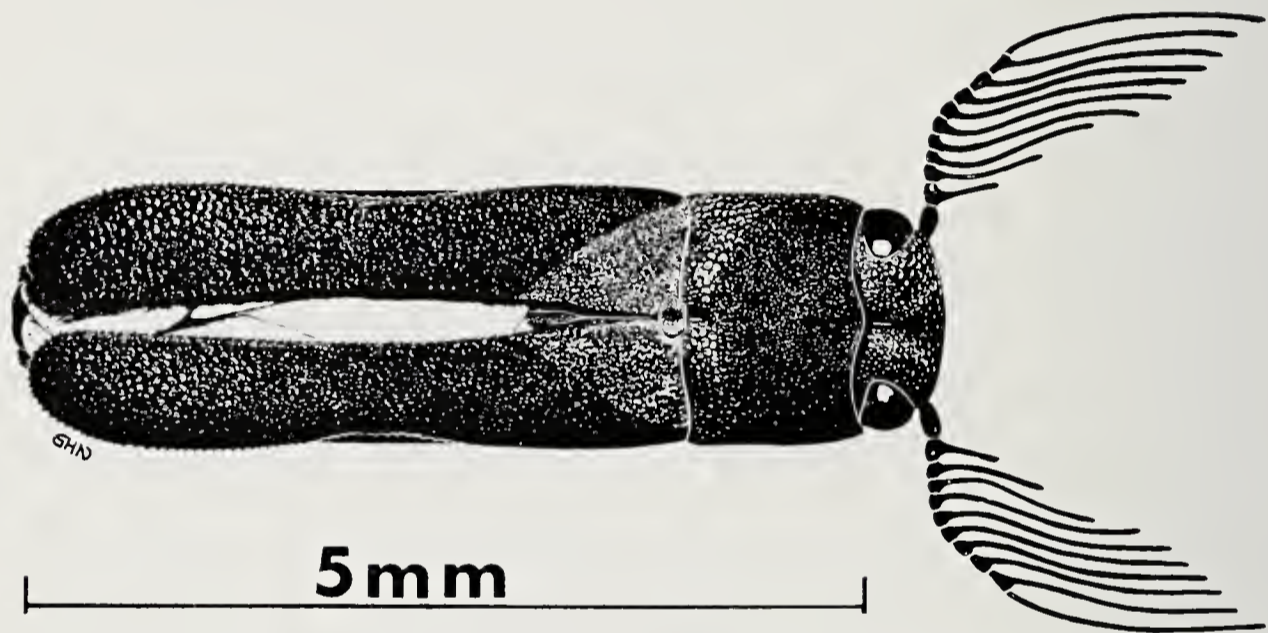


Figure 1. *Xenorhipis mexicana* Nelson, new species, holotype.

#### Key to Males of the Genus *Xenorhipis*

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|----|---|--|
| 1  | Disk of pronotum dark cupreous, posterior pronotal angles brilliant cupreous; elytra with testaceous triangular spot extending from lateral margin behind umbone diagonally back to middle (Bahama Islands).... | ..... <i>X. vauriei</i> Cazier         |
| 1' | Color and maculations different.....  | 2                                      |
| 2  | Elytra covering but three abdominal segments; white fascia on middle of elytra extending from lateral margin nearly to suture with oblique extension anteriorly from sutural to humeral region (Texas).....     | ..... <i>X. osburni</i> Knoll          |
| 2' | Elytra covering more than three abdominal segments; white fascia, if present, not as above.....   | 3                                      |
| 3  | Elytra constricted at middle from lateral and sutural margins leaving midline gap between elytra; elytra without oblique light markings (Fig. 1, Mexico).....   | ..... <i>X. mexicana</i> , NEW SPECIES |

- 3' Elytra not constricted or constricted only from lateral margin leaving no gap between elytra; elytra usually with oblique light markings..... 4
- 4 General body color a dull blue with violet on elytra and middle of pronotum (Brazil).....*X. alvarengai* Cobos
- 4' General body color dark bronze or aeneous..... 5
- 5 General color of head, pronotum and elytra bronze; elytral apices finely serrulate (Texas).....*X. hidalgoensis* Knull
- 5' General color of head, pronotum and elytra darker bronze; elytral apices more coarsely serrulate (Eastern United States, Texas).....  
.....*X. brendeli* Leconte

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### LITERATURE CITED

- COBOS, A. 1964. Extension del genero "*Xenorhipis*" a la Fauna Neotropical (Coleoptera, Buprestidae). Rev. Brasil. Biol., 24(1): 77-82.

### NOTE

Entomology Division of New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Box 223, Nelson) is the main institution engaged in systematic research on New Zealand insects. At present the Systematics Section comprises Dr. G. Kuschel (Leader, Curculionoidea), Dr. J. C. Watt (Cucujoidea, especially Tenebrionidae, beetle larvae), Dr. G. W. Ramsay (Orthoptera and Acarina), Dr. A. C. Eyles (Hemiptera), Mr. J. S. Dugdale (Lepidoptera and Tachinidae), Mrs. B. M. May (larvae of Curculionoidea) and four technicians. Taxonomic research is undertaken also by other officers of the Division, e.g. Dr. J. M. Hoy (Director, Melolonthinae larvae and Coccoidea), Mr. E. W. Valentine (Chalcidoidea), Mr. W. Thomas (Ichneumonoidea), Mr. L. J. Dumbleton (Hepialidae, Simuliidae, ticks, etc.) and Mr. B. B. Given (Scarabaeidae).

The collection of Coleoptera is based on the collections of the Cawthron Institute and A. E. Brookes, and includes many cotypes and determined specimens of T. Broun. In recent years it has been greatly expanded, especially through extractions of leaf litter and moss, and by more extensive general collecting than was possible in the past. Recently Dr. Kuschel led an expedition to the Chatham Islands, and visited the Auckland Islands, and Dr. Watt spent 2½ months on the Kermadec Islands. The collection of larvae of Coleoptera has been sorted and greatly augmented in the last 18 months.

—J. CHARLES WATT